

VLR-6/2/70 NRHP-9/15/70

Form 10-200
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elmwood

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Elmwood

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1.6 mi. W of Rt. 640, .2 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 17. (Loretto vic.)

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 057

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Muscoe R. H. Garnett

STREET AND NUMBER:
Elmwood

CITY OR TOWN:
Loretto

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Essex County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Tappahannock

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934; 1939 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Essex	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elmwood is impressively situated on the edge of the ridge that defines the south side of the Rappahannock Valley. From the north or entrance front, broad views of the pastures and bottom lands may be obtained. The south front originally overlooked an extensive formal garden, restored in recent years. The house originally may have been flanked by dependencies, but no archaeological investigation has been undertaken to verify this.

The dimensions of Elmwood are one hundred feet long by about thirty feet deep, making it one of the largest of Virginia's colonial plantation houses. The two-story brick structure is covered by a hipped roof with a shallow central projecting pavilion on the entrance front. The pavilion features an open tympanum, and a second-floor Palladian window. The roof is surrounded at its base by a fine modillion-and-dentil cornice and has two interior chimneys projecting from its ridge.

Elmwood's walls are laid in especially even Flemish bond, and are surrounded by a molded water table and a rubbed brick belt course. Gauged flat arches appear over all the windows except those on the first floor of the south front. These windows, which are topped by single-tier rowlock arches, were treated in a simple manner because they were originally obscured by a one-story porch extending the length of the facade. The exact appearance of this porch has not been established.

Elmwood's plan includes a central hall from which corridors extend across the north front to the drawing room on the west and the original dining room on the east. On either side of the hall on the south side of the house are the library and music room. Much original woodwork survives on the first floor, while the second floor has been almost completely retrimmed. The woodwork in the library and drawing room is especially rich, and includes full panelling with elaborate cornices and overmantels. The original mantels in both rooms have been lost, however. The hall retains its full Doric entablature and elliptical arches, but a new stairway has been placed in the west corridor. The location of the original stairway is uncertain.

The 1852 remodelling of Elmwood resulted in extensive alterations to both the exterior and interior of the house. The remodelling included the addition of an Italianate stair tower on the entrance front, and the lowering of nearly all the window sills in order to accomodate a larger pane sash. The original porch on the garden front was removed and a smaller porch substituted for it. The present owner's extensive renovation of Elmwood has resulted in the removal of several of the 1852 additions, including the stair tower.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elmwood was built around 1774 for Muscoe Garnett (1736-1803), whose family had been prominent in Essex County since the seventeenth century. Garnett was one of the largest landowners in the county and a member of the Essex Committee of Safety, 1774-75. Elmwood passed to Muscoe Garnett's son, James Mercer Garnett (1770-1843), and then to his grandson, Muscoe Russell Hunter Garnett (1821-1864), anti-abolitionist, lawyer, and Confederate statesman. It was he who extensively remodelled Elmwood in 1852 in the Italianate style. Except for two brief intervals, Elmwood was uninhabited from the 1870's until it was inherited by its present owner, Muscoe Russell Hunter Garnett. Many of the 1852 additions have been removed by the present owner in an effort to return the house to its original appearance.

Architecturally, Elmwood is one of Virginia's most ambitious colonial plantation houses, both in size and richness of detail. Its interior trim is some of the most elaborate of the period. Many of its design features, such as masonry details, facade design, and interior woodwork, relate the house architecturally to several other important mid-Georgian plantation houses, including Mount Airy, Blandfield, Menokin, and the additions to Mount Vernon. This group has been attributed to the architect, John Ariss.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chisolm, William Garnett, Elmwood, Essex County, Virginia. Unpublished manuscript. n.d.
Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia. Garden Club of Virginia. Richmond, 1962.
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. New York: 1968.
 Sale, Edith Tunis, Interiors of Virginia Houses of Colonial Times. Richmond, 1937.
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776. New York, 1945.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 05' 55"	77° 06' 41"				
NE	38° 05' 55"	77° 04' 20"				
SE	38° 04' 38"	77° 04' 20"				
SW	38° 04' 38"	77° 06' 41"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **850 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director
 ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 11, 1970
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #28-11
1970 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Occupacia, Va. (1949)

Elmwood	
Latitude	Longitude
NW 38° 05' 55"	77° 06' 41"
NE 38° 05' 55"	77° 04' 20"
SE 38° 04' 38"	77° 04' 20"
SW 38° 04' 38"	77° 06' 41"

